



**ADVOCACY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 6, 2026**

The Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee convened in person at Independence First (540 S 1st St, Milwaukee, WI 53204). There were no members or attendees that joined the meeting virtually or by conference call.

Members Present

Commissioner Brian Peters, *Chair*
Maureen Conrad, *Vice Chair*
Commissioner George Banda
Maureen Conrad
Kimberly King
Trina Koch
Tom Suchecki

Members Excused

Paulette Maclin
William Meunier
Commissioner Janice Wilberg, Ph.D.
Sopheya Farrell
Kathy Scott

Milwaukee County Staff

Emily Petersen, *DHHS*
Clare O'Brien, *DHHS*
Ortrialla Paris, *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Rene Smith
Emma, member guest
Steph Zito, *ASL Interpreter*

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brian Peters called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The AAA Advocacy and Policy Manager, Emily Petersen conducted the roll call. A quorum was not present for the meeting, so the Committee proceeded to take up informational items only.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2026 ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The Committee laid this item over to the April 3, 2026 meeting.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES

- A.** 2026 Senior Leadership Program.
- B.** Future State Project Community Listening Sessions—March 9, Washington Park Senior Center.

- C. McGovern Park Senior Center Listening Sessions—March 12 and March 13, Wahington Park Senior Center.
- D. 2026 In-District Aging Advocacy Day (Discussion).

Chair Peters encouraged Committee members to attend the Future State listening sessions and McGovern Senior Center listening sessions to advocate on behalf of older adult residents.

Emily asked the Committee for their preferences for an upcoming In-District Aging Advocacy Day. The Committee discussed potential locations, including the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center, municipal senior centers, and the County-owned Senior Centers. The Committee decided the best location would be a County-owned Senior Center and to hold the event at the end of May or beginning of June to coincide with the completion of the Senior Leadership Program.

IV. LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY UPDATES

A. Federal Aging Policy

I. Federal Budget and Issues

- a. **FY2026 Budget update.** Emily provided an update on the Federal Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Committee discussed the update, including increased funding to some Older Americans Act programs, with no action taken.

- II. **Federal Regulations and Executive Orders.** There was no update provided on this item, so the Committee did not take it up at this meeting.

B. State Legislative Issues

I. Administrative Rules & Governor's Taskforces.

- a. **Assembly Task Force on Elder Issues:** Emily provided an update on the recommended legislation arising from the Task Force. The Committee discussed the legislation, which included regulation of virtual currency kiosks, economic support specialists, and funding for falls prevention programs, which are having hearings and votes in the Assembly and Senate. Emily shared the communications sent on behalf of the Commission on these items.

II. State Budget & Legislation

- a. **Review State Legislation Tracker.** Emily provided an update on how legislation of interest has progressed through the committee process.

C. Milwaukee County Legislative Issues

I. Milwaukee County Budget and Legislation

II. Aging Items of Interest.

a. City of Milwaukee Community Health Assessment

Vice Chair Conrad provided an overview of the City of Milwaukee Community Health Assessment and opportunities for collaboration between the City and County to work on issues impacting older adults.

V. 2026 POLICY PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

A. Review proposed 2026 policy priorities document.

The Committee reviewed the document. Because there was no quorum, the Committee laid approval of the document over to the April meeting.

VI. 2025-2027 AGING AREA PLAN ADVOCACY GOALS REVIEW

The Committee reviewed the Aging Area Plan goals in the Advocacy area and discussed opportunities for growth and where we have been most successful over the past year.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Banda Moved, Koch Second).

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next Advocacy Committee meeting is at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 3, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Petersen
Advocacy and Policy Manager